

Date: March 11, 2010

East Hartford Community
Healthcare, INC.
94 Connecticut Boulevard
East Hartford, CT 06108
860-528-1359

Vernon Community
Health Services
3 Prospect Street
Vernon, CT 06066
860-896-1616

Manchester Community
Health Services
150 North Main Street/suite 240
Manchester, CT 06042
860-646-4678/860-646-8117

In the 3 minutes that I have, I will try to encapsulate the reason why HUSKY Outreach is so important in reaching families with healthcare needs in the Community.

Community Outreach Workers have a vision to educate the families about programs that are offered when their lives are not stable because of poverty issues, loss of employment, stigma of the program and not having their basic needs met.

Community Outreach Workers support the families with all of their needs. In my findings, normally people are not aware of programs offered in Connecticut. It is very important not to demean an individual because of their status of lifestyle, living conditions, and general health factors.

Community Outreach Workers are civic leaders and very important people in our communities who work with a code of ethics and are trained, educated and humble in approaching our families in need and establishing a trust.

The more families that we enroll in Medicaid programs the more federal dollars are brought into the State. Due to the economic crisis it is important to receive all funding from the Feds that we earn. Makes our state financially stronger!

My experience with providing information to families who are eligible for HUSKY A, HUSKY B, Title 19, Charter Oak Health Plan and SAGA are extremely rewarding. When I hear that a family has been granted insurance to receive medical and dental care, I know that I have made a significant positive addition and difference in an individual's life. Imagine yourself without insurance and being diagnosed with cancer, diabetes, heart disease, sickle cell and pneumonia. What comes to mind but the end of line!!

The organization I work for East Hartford Community Healthcare participated at the NAFC's C.A.R.E. free health clinic at the Hartford Convention Center. I was amazed to see the number of medical professionals and community representatives who volunteered their time to reach out to families with no insurance. That's what outreach is all about, reaching out. I was asked "what do the people do after they leave the free health clinic". I said "from your family to our family at our East Hartford Community Healthcare, Inc. and every health center statewide". We are available around the clock for you and your family.

My responsibility at the health center is to interview and enroll the families in the state insurances if they qualify, and if not, to offer a sliding fee rate or program that will accommodate their medical and dental needs.

In 2009, all (Federally Qualified Health Centers) in the state combined, cared for over 283,762 unduplicated users at almost 350 sites across the state. This represents an increase of 70% since 2001 due to the expansion of the number of centers and sites of service. Patient visit volume has increased 9% each year since 2003 to **over one million visits** last year for medical, dental and mental health services.

Through (Community Health Center Association of CT) CHCACT, the FQHCs were recently funded (September 30, 2009) by CMS under CHIPRA to launch a major effort to enroll eligible but uninsured children in Connecticut. Nine FQHCs are using this CHIPRA funding to reach 29,000 children in Connecticut who are eligible but unenrolled. Any suggestion that the State's Medicaid Outreach program can be replaced with these CHIPRA efforts directly conflicts with the strict requirements of CMS that states certify CHIPRA funds will not be used to supplant state funded enrollment efforts. East Hartford Community Healthcare is an affiliate of this statewide program that is being launched in CT very soon!

In closing if you think Community Outreach Workers can't - Yes We Can - "Si Se Puede".

Thank you,

Myrian A. Garcia
Patient Support Services Coordinator / 860-528-1359 x111
East Hartford Community Healthcare, Inc.